

SPEECH

OF

LUCAS HIRST, ESQ.

AT TRENTON,

ON THE 15TH OF SEPTEMBER,

AT THE GREAT RATIFICATION!

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FELLOW CITIZENS:—There was a certain man that hastened the final ruin of the whole house of Stuart; he had a peculiar caste of countenance, that no one could mistake; and when it lowered, it fell with a deadly and malignant hatred upon all their heads! There was an ominous fatality in him—for he was a republican, and his look blasted every violent effort that was made to rise above the ruin he invariably left behind; he marked them out with his eye for destruction; combined to which were the impending clouds of an oppressed and outraged people, sickened with taxation and national calamities! Warned! they heeded not! Just above the horizon a storm gathered over their heads, and poured down its formidable wrath with fury and rage upon them! In that fatal hour, they attempted to avoid it; but it was too late. The hour had come! The understanding of this family, (I mean the Stuarts,) was equal to the principles of their hearts; their whole object was to accomplish the ruin of the government they represented; but the depravity of the heart often becomes strangely united with the confusion of the mind, and this fatal and fated family, exposed without consciousness, deeds that brought them to the block. The name of Clay was fatal to the whig party; that of Scott, dangerous; the trinity of Seward, Corwin and Greeley, laughable.

At this critical period, the condition of our country rouses the serious attention of her citizens, if they desire to perpetuate the existence of those laws under which they and their fathers have lived; not tamely and unwantonly stand by, and behold their dearest heritage basely sold and obliterated from the Statute book! Circumstances and events, which strike terror into the heart of a great man, and cause him to tremble for the fate of his country, inspires weak and unguarded men with confidence and presumption. Abandoned by every party; lost in political trust, Gen. Scott seeks a new despotism. He ransacked the stores of the present, and having failed—he flew to antiquated oppressions, where, alas! he found no precedent so base, so vile, as to sanction the course he meditated. The inspired remembrance of those

who had born the weight of arms; the mingled mass who had renounced all allegiance to the Potentates and Sovereigns of Europe, and fought under our Banner, could not awaken one latent sympathy—but with one fell and dire sweep, justice, policy, and the feelings of the people—all were forgotten and thrown aside, because he had pictured to himself, (as he had supposed) the most pleasing expectations, from the innocent, credulous simplicity of the people. I may be said to be severe on Gen. Scott, but I hold it, that no man can be too vindictive or revengeful upon one, who fosters in the inmost recesses of his heart, the most dangerous principles—hostile, ruinous and destructive. Unrelenting in his implacable hatred towards foreigners, and determined to exterminate the whole race. When the nomination of Scott was announced, our opposers were thunderstruck, they did not suppose that the members of the Convention had so far deceived themselves as to fix upon him. The announcement fell upon the anxious public without an expression of approbation or applause, or a public sentiment. The party leaders had supposed, that experience, and a long train of precedents; the unknown predilections (so vehemently expressed and promulgated,) would have warned them against so fatal a step. The most determined advocates of the whig party, had scruples about them, which could not be divined or resisted; they heard of the nomination, and notwithstanding that they have niceties about them in the choice, in the conduct and character of public men, than any other class of our great land; ready at any moment to engage and embark in any vessel, however spurious or spontaneous its commodity may be; yet strange to say, there was a coldness and supineness on the part of their advocates, a profound silence that looked ominous. They feared this man of worldly greatness, avarice and ambition; they felt that this was to be the final flight and ruin of a desperate political character, struggling for parade, pomp and power. But they soon awakened under the mild and soothing influence of Tom Corwin, Creeley, and Seward. But my fellow countrymen, in the warm and ardent zeal I have evinced for the interests of

my country, I have forgotten to express my gratitude for the honor you have conferred upon me, in thus permitting me to address you on the shores of the prolific and inexhaustible New Jersey. Here, where everything that grows, now bears a charmed sway, and endears and hallows the spot! Where scenes, reminiscences and recollections animate your hearts and bless your happy existence. Scenes that might be envied and sighed for by the proudest spirits of the old world. The restless emigrant from New Haven had been unsuccessful in his existence here, and here and there, but a Swedish farmer was to be seen, endeavoring to preserve his dwelling, whilst the sounds of Verazzani's voice might have been heard on the distant hills, enchanting and sounding the praise of the bold and wildness of your mountain masses, that tower in gloom and hang over the tranquil stream that runs below. In 1640, I believe the colonization of your great State commenced; then comparatively a wilderness, and now by your united efforts and exertions, it has grown into magnitude and importance. When the attempt was first made, it was successfully resisted. The Swedes built a fort, and thus acquiring a command of the river, claimed and exercised an authority over all vessels that entered the Delaware river, even over their old associates, the Dutch; they continued in possession until they were conquered and transported to Europe. The Dutch thus consequently possessed themselves of the whole Territory of the State of New Jersey shared. It, however, the same fate as those on the Hudson, captured by the English under Col. Nichols. In 1664 the Duke of York executed a grant of that portion of his Territory lying between the Hudson and Delaware rivers, to Lord Berkley, and Sir Geo. Carteret. It was called New Jersey in compliment to Sir George, because he had been Governor of the Isle of Jersey, one of the possessions of the British. This Island was the subject of a great political struggle—but Carteret managed to hold it in safety for the King. The proprietors of New Jersey formed a Constitution, securing equal privileges and liberty of conscience. Philip Carteret became its Governor in 1665, your seat of Government then lay at Elizabethtown. Efforts were made to secure actual settlers, and as an inducement the salubrity of your climate and its great national advantages were strenuously put forth; but the strongest ground advanced as an inducement was, that (like the Utopian Government,) it had become a Paradise of harmony and Peace, of rest and tranquillity, because it had no lawyers, physicians or parsons there, to disturb its repose! (Great laughter.)

It soon, under the fostering care of your fathers, grew into a very desirable and ad-

vantageous residence; settlers from England flocked in, bringing with them their little wealth to supply the necessities of the Colony. (cheers.) The pure spirit of those departed patriots who have done this is now amongst you—you feel for the honor of your common parents, and you venerate and respect them. (cheers.)

The nominee of the whig party hails from this State; he has enjoyed the comforts that are scattered on every blade of grass, yet unmindful, heedless, disregarding what your ancestors have done for you—regardless how this great State has grown into the exalted position she now occupies, he sought to slay, to blast, to cast an aspersion on those whom you are bound by all the natural ties of kindred and association to revere, honor and respect. The growth, the offspring of another soil we have ripened and matured here, and we hallow the grounds and products that perpetuate life! (cheers.)

I mean Gen. Scott's efforts, to abolish the naturalization laws, secured to those who have put their faith, trust and confidence in us, the people. It was made as a guarantee, as a public pledge, and has become one of the cardinal, immutable principles of our party, to respect men according to their deeds and actions. (cheers.)

When they abandoned their own soil, found ours, and gave us an assurance of their fidelity, it was a *deed* which we were bound to recognize and hail, and we then became responsible for their safety and rights. Not endeavor to insult and abridge what they were entitled to enjoy, by the passage of a law which Gen. Scott knew was striking at their very heads, and reproaching them for the crime of having been born under another soil and another clime. (cheers.)

The immortal spark of liberty swells in the human breast, and has been rising by inspiration for four thousand years; bigotry and oppression must fall before it. In these pregnant times, it has been discovered that this country is not so small but that the sun will shine and the dew will descend upon all those foreigners (however countless their numbers may be,) and that they in common can partake of the blessings without famine or prejudice to us. (cheers.)

But, gentlemen, the fomentation of such a movement as agitated by Gen. Scott, is peculiarly adapted to such a character. His ambition pants for internal rebellions and bloodshed. He could conceive nothing to arise from such a movement but domestic revolution; not the establishment of any permanent good, for the Constitution had secured to all foreigners an uniform rule of naturalization, and we would have been without it in the same predicament that Mahomet would have been without the *Alkoran*. But Gen. Scott, seated above the common level of us

all: placed in a position where we could not reach him, envied the unfortunate foreigner the little happiness he had enjoyed under our Constitution, and endeavored to obscure the lambent rays of the sun, that played upon their defenceless heads. Unsatisfied with the elevation which rank and fortune had given him, he aimed to drag the foreigners still lower down: to wrest from them the inducement which brought them—the enjoyment of free government. The insolence, the contempt with which he looked down upon those humble, contented individuals, (both virtuous and useful) ought to excite the honest indignation of all who think and feel. (applause.)

The natural sensations of an honest heart revolt against it. Such sentiments arises from a natural inclination to despotism; and if not thwarted by the people at the ballot-box, must eventually lead to the most dangerous consequences. Such a spirit allows no *rights* to the poor, but those which cannot be taken away. A man entertaining a spirit repugnant to tying them closely around our Constitution, naturally hates the people, and would gladly annihilate their rights.

How quick the ire of Gen. Scott rose when his horse was not fed and sheltered for the night, whilst he rested at an inn. This is a custom and a right which the animal should have been provided with, and he hated to see him deprived of it; yet in the same breath, he says, “wait till I see to my horse and I shall then hasten to exterminate the naturalization laws: foreigners have no right to be seen or heard.”

Gen. Scott might have looked out of the window of the Aster House when he was planning that wicked letter, and beheld the poor laborer, his wife and children, driven from their home in the Old World, the remnant of his fortune nefariously extracted from them by some ship-owners for passage money, houseless, homeless, friendless, starving, and in rags! But did he say to them, my unfortunate friends you have been deluded, I am about exterminating you—you had better go back where you come from; here is money? But who ever heard of Gen. Scott giving the money he had received from the government in such, or any other case. He was too high up; he could not have been reached; could he have been, and had the people been aware of the dark deed he was meditating, an outraged community would have burnt the letter before him. (cheers.) But he did not mean to be seen or feel. Rapt in the panoply of his own greatness, with the imaginary prospect of the sovereignty of America before him, he heard not the cries of the afflicted from without. (cheers.)

But to return to the history and progress of your own dear native State. (cheers.) When the proprietors commenced their exorbitant

demands for quit-rents, it excited general disgust; they refused to acknowledge the title, and set up a grant obtained from the Indians. The result was an insurrection. The governor returned to England, when the Colonists installed Sir Jeo's son in his functions. The next year New York reverted to the dominion of Holland, and then your State became united with the province of New Netherlands. The treaty of London re-established the authority of England in New Jersey. The Duke of York appointed Andros his Lieutenant; he took possession in 1674, confirming the late proceedings of the Dutch. The law of nations had declared them in force. Lord Berkley became dissatisfied and assigned his pretensions to Wm. Penn and his three associates, who divided the province with Carteret—hence it became divided into East and West Jersey. East Jersey was released in July, 1676 by the assignees of Lord Berkley to Carteret, and he in turn conveyed them West Jersey, the government of which the Duke retained as a dependence of New York, while the first was resigned to Carteret. The result was a confusion of jurisdiction and an uncertainty of property, which distracted the people, and ended in the annihilation of the power of the proprietors. Then came a submission of their difficulties to commissioners, who decided, that as the grant to Berkley and Carteret had reserved no profit or jurisdiction, the legality of taxes could not be defended. Releases were executed, and Jersey rose to the rank of almost an independent State. (applause.) The accession of settlers increased the population and prosperity. In 1681 the first Representative Assembly was held, which confirmed laws for the preservation of property and punishment of criminals. Frequent disputes arose, (subsequent to this) between the proprietors, and those who held transferred shares, which resulted in a vast deal of contests, that were not ended until her absolute independence. Surrounded by New York, the Atlantic Ocean, Delaware Bay, and Pennsylvania, you present three remarkable divisions. Your marine section occupies one-half of the area of the State, to leave which you emerge into your great hilly section, and from which we may fly to the mountainous region, abounding with rich, variegated, and bold scenery—the resort of the Democracy of the whole world! (cheers.)

Altho' I believe you have not tried it, you may grow cotton. (cheers) situated as you are, you are the most advantageously situated of any political subdivision of this great Republic! You can boast of Railroads, Canals, manufactories of every description, staples from the products of your fields, woods, mines, fisheries, and last not least, for big water melons! (laughter)—but you have only grown one large *squash*! (laugh-

ter.) From your Colleges, you have sent forth Presidents, able Statesmen, and lettered men; not equalled by any other state! (cheers.) I feel that I am dwelling too long: time is precious, and the rain pouring in torrents. I am sensible of the enthusiasm that gathers around me; it rises from a patriotic, proud and ardent feeling for him, who is the choice of the people. (cheers) From every spot in this extensive state, I imagine I hear the voice of the white yeoman, and his family, rejoicing over the success of the White mountain boy, that now stands upon the Granite Hills of his own dear native state! (great applause,) you feel that in his election; they feel that in his election will result the entire overthrow, and expulsion of the Whig party, and its dangerous principles! (applause) Principles, that have been the curse and bane of this land! The Baltimore Platform, is a clear, and unequivocal exponent of the doctrine, which Gen. Pierce has accepted; not because they have made it, but because it is consonant to the views of the people; because they have sanctioned it, and because it commands the approbation of his judgment! It holds to the union of the States; to the preservation of life, liberty, and property!—(cheers) To a government upheld by the popular will, and sustained by their united efforts and voices! To the principles of the Declaration of Independence; that by the constitution, which under all crises should be maintained inviolate is one of limited powers: that they have no power to carry on a general system of internal improvements; that the Federal government has no right to assume the debts of the several states. That one branch of industry should not be *fostered* in detriment to another; that all possess an equality of rights, and that every citizen, has a right to demand them; that economy is indispensable in public affairs; and that no more revenue should be raised, than is required, for expenses, and a gradual extinction of the public debt; that Congress has no power to charter a national Bank; that this is the asylum of the oppressed; that Congress has no power to interfere with the domestic institutions of the States; that the proceeds of the public lands, ought to be sacredly applied. These my fellow countrymen, are the fundamental principles of the Platform, and these are the principles, which ought to be sustained for the preservation of our country. cheers They have been sanctioned since the days of the immortal Jefferson! (great cheers)

They were found indispensable; they have been the means of thwarting the efforts of the Whig Party! They have aroused the serious consideration of the people of the United States, and men have thought reflected upon, and sanctioned them! (cheers.)

An oppressive tariff, raises the price of all foreign goods, and of manufactures, and hence, sinks the real value of the surplus produce of its own land, with which it purchases foreign goods and manufactures, and gives a monopoly of the home market to its own merchants and manufacturers; raising the rate mercantile and manufacturing profit, in proportion to that of agricultural profit, and consequently either draws from agriculture, a part of the capital which had before been employed in it, or hinders from giving it a part of what would otherwise have gone to it.

Thus it sinks the real value of produce, and lowers the rates of profits, that by increasing the rate of profit in other employments. Hence, we are compelled to pay more for goods, without benefitting the agriculturist, or increasing the rates of wages. This is what they call benefitting the poor. How benevolent! again: High rates, must naturally result in an increase of emigration, pursuing the same pursuits; creating (by their industry) immense quantities of articles which eventually reduces us to the same level, coupled with a panic. But suppose that emigration does not take place, will not our own people from increased prices of articles, be induced to start and embark in the same vessel. Then suppose, the produces to be more than the consumers, it must naturally result in the same terrible event! We are often told that the tariff, will give a new impetus to trade, by the increase, and magnitude of the manufactures; true; but the greater the body, the lesser the value. I heard a man say a short time ago, that it cost him no more to make 2000 pair of stockings now, than it formerly cost him to make a 1000. When I came to inquire into the price, I found that he got no more for the 2000 pair, than he did for the 1000. This was from an English manufacture, and not an American. Demand and consumption, population and wealth, are the ratio of price. You may be told that where goods are bringing large prices, it is benefitting the people. I know not how; will they give the farmer, more for his produce, no! will they give the laborer more for his work! no! But say the Whigs, hold on, and they will give you what you demand. This you know to be untrue; our market people know it to be untrue; for how often are you passed in the market, because you charge *too much*. Again say they to the mechanic, demand a price, and insist upon it; will they give it! no! Then say they, form into a society, and resolve yourselves not to work for under such a price. Then their answer is starve! We'll give no more! Then we'll form into a club and prevent any from working under price, says the mechanic. Then replies the manufacturer, we'll indict

you, for a conspiracy! Thus the events of a tariff, the vindication of your rights, ends within the four walls of a prison! (cheers.)

Having exhausted the subject of a tariff, our friends, then turn to the glowing description of a national bank, where you are to walk in without knocking, and take as much money as you please! (laughter.) But my fellow citizens, where is the money to come from? we are to be answered out of the treasury, out of the revenue! deplorable state of affairs! The real object and the result may be contained in a few words: the withdrawal of the deposits from other banks, and a Bankruptcy; the creation of a deadly engine, a political machine for controlling the ballot-box; the money, and the people, by the combined arts of corruption and speculators! Let me my fellow men, warn you; let it be instilled into your children, that for the safety of the States, for the preservation of the nation, and the honor of the government, every violent effort must be made, to oppose and resist issues, calculated to strike at the root of liberty and franchise, peace and happiness, and blast the prospects of our political existence! (cheers.)

My fellow citizens, the world looks down upon us, they cannot resist the temptation; liberty, reverberates with a never-dying voice in their ears. The last welcome sounds, have been heard, from beyond the parapets of Moro Castle. A well known flag with her ample folds, and upon whose azure field, sparkled the stars of a constellation, in lustre unequalled by the light of Heaven, planted before them! The holy insurrection of Don Narciso Lopez, at Trinidad and Cienfuegos; the expedition of round Island, that of Cardenas, that of the Cleopatra were frustrated by a base and hireling traitor! The courage, daring and Patriotic spirit of Lopez has stamped and handed him down to posterity, (like the unfortunate Emmet,) as a great republican martyr. The independence of the lone star of Cuba, would be interesting to the people of this great country; you understand but little about it—its close proximity; its advantageous position, and its institutions. They can only be appreciated by reflecting seriously what its independence would result in to the United States, and in the future development of America. I know that the same causes that impelled us to the separation from Great Britain, now operates and actuates the Cubans, in the course they have pursued. The Cubans have no powers or immunities, but are suffering under the galling yoke of oppression! (hear) Her taxes are enormous not to feed herself (but to her) to feed an unknown and distant land of hireling murderers and cut-throats! and midnight assassins with which she has no connection in kindred ties, save that of their mercenary speculation and wholesale robbery upon them!

(cries of hear) Not represented, not permitted to go beyond the precincts of her city limits; enthralled, dogged—their footsteps tracked, and the sanctity of their houses violated. This is what they call not barbarian or brute, but human existence! Have we eyes that we see not; have we no hearts that we feel not! have we no feet, that we walk not; have we no books, that we read not! Have we no arms, that we resist not, or is this imagination—delusion or madness! (great cheers.) That was a just revolution! When citizens, are treated as such; when their rights are respected; when they are not plundered by the government; when there is a due regard and decent respects paid to their wants; when government strives to perpetuate a freedom of thought and action; exercising a mild, yet controlling influence over them. then peace, joy and happiness gathers around them, and government is a blessing! But is this the case? no! Like the maroons of the West Indies they have suffered and endured the severest treatment, until forbearance ceased to become a virtue, and they were driven to the force and expedient of arms. Havana, is the key to the gulf, into which pours through the channel of the Mississippi, the wealth of all the western and southern states. We know of its importance; of the danger of its passing into other hands, or remaining where it is! and we rejoiced at the efforts made to burst from the bonds of enthrallment and human oppression, and to become one of the Republican nations of the earth! (Cheers.) It is in vain to stifle the flames of liberty—it is in vain to thwart the spirit and enthusiasm of a Democracy; it is the peoples government. When this prodigy of wonder and amazement, just rose above the pinnacles and minarets of Greece, Carthage, Rome, Poland, Switzerland, Holland, France and America, the light of the sun stretched forth her might, and unconquerable and unquenchable arms to inspire those below, and bid them remember "Alma Mater." (Cheers.)

The echo of the voice of liberty now reaches every monarchy in the world. The embers, the ruins of despotism are still glowing on foreign soils. They may laud their splendid and magnificent cities, gigantic palaces, their temples of pleasure and fame; the pyramids and the monuments of the East, and their mighty works of art, for they were but the effects of despotism. But in America, our monuments are the monuments of the intellect, our strife the strife of Democrat against Whig; or in other words, the strife of reason against error! (great cheers.) The undistinguished name of thousand would have rotted in the dust from whence they sprung, had not the impetus of republicanism burst forth with one universal blaze, to curb the great and raise the low! (great cheers.)

Now, my fellow citizens, Gen. Pierce is the platform, and the platform is Gen. Pierce; you have the proud features of it before you, you feel you are satisfied that it adopts; that he adopts the sound principles that ought, and should only prevail and rule; that any other would be fatal and attended with the most disastrous result, that it is our intention to know no other, to perpetuate no other, or to live under no other than a free and unclouded Democracy; and that in order to accomplish this, we, the people—the whole people, will walk up to the polls, and cast our votes for our country's good—and for that *tarnal critter*, Frank Pierce! (great laughter.)

We are told, that Athens fell, because the errors of the people appeared so lovely in their own eyes, that they would not be cured of them. Scott will fall, because the people are insensible to the charms of a National Bank, and the abolition of the naturalization laws! (Laughter.) Thus, instead of encouraging the *patriot*, Scott (like the hero of the French Republic, of '93,) would leave no vestige, no cheering hope to the oppressed of other lands, but suffer our temple of liberty to droop down, down through the current of time, a curse, a mournful and melancholy memento; where no foreign spirit could breathe the native air of our judgements, courage, and the laws! (Cheers.) But, from the the plains of Elizabethtown, and within the walls of the Astor House, we are told that this gallant Scott has shifted his ground, and, like the Frenchman, has a sign for each army, be it Russian or Napoleon! Hear! O hear! and then judge for yourselves:—"Nov., 1840—Fired with indignation, two friends sat down with me in my parlor at the Astor House, to draw up an address to rally an American party. I now hesitate between extending the period of residence before naturalization, and the total repeal of all acts of Congress on the subject. My mind inclines to the latter." At 'em again, General!—(laughter.) Elizabethtown—"I can say that the Irish, the Germans, the Swiss, the French, the Britons, and other adopted citizens, fought side by side with native born Americans; there was no room for invidious distinction, &c." Do you call this buying and selling American and foreign manufacture!—(laughter.) (A Voice:—"Both!"—laughter.) When, upon a raw and gusty day, a satyr ranging through the woods, espied a weary, way-worn traveller, benumbed with cold, he took compassion on

entered, and sat down, (notwithstanding the heat of the place, and the blazing fire before him,) he commenced blowing his fingers ends with his mouth. The satyr said to the lonely man, and invited him home to a warm comfortable cave. As soon as he had him, "My friend, there's a good fire, and this is a warm place, therefore, why do you blow your fingers?" The traveller answered, he did it to warm his hands—that he was blowing heat. The sylvan, astonished, admired a man who was master of so valuable a quality as that of blowing heat, and, therefore, resolved to entertain him in the handsomest manner; he spread a table before him, with elegant and choice preserved fruits, such as he had laid by to celebrate great days, and entertain wonderful men; then, to add to the grandeur and entertainment, and to pay due respect to so extraordinary a man, he produced a great cordial, the like of which he had never given to mortal man; then, mulling it with choice spices, infused over the fire, he presented it to his shivering guest. The satyr watched him closely, to see how so great a man would dispose of the drink he had placed before him. But, to his surprise, the traveller again commenced blowing the liquor.—"What," says the Sylvan, is that not hot enough! "Oh, yes," replied his guest. "Then," retorted the satyr, "Why do you blow it?" "To cool it," replied the traveller. This provoked the sylvan's indignation, as much as the first had excited his admiration; so, seizing the traveller by the shoulders, he pitched him out of doors. "There," said he, "go, I'll have nothing to do with the wretch who possesses so vile a quality as that of blowing hot and cold with the same breath." Out fell the traveller, and bang closed the door. The Satyr could not be reconciled to such duplicity and double dealing. Nothing can be more offensive, or dangerous, as to vacillate in order to serve present views. Like this man, Scott, in order to raise the expectations, and excite the passions of one class of the community at the expense of another. Like the Satyr, gentlemen, I say, unless the tenor of a man's life be always fair, true, and consistent with itself, the less we have to do with him the better! (Cheers.)

I shall conclude these desultory remarks, with the following happy observation; and when I speak to the plain understanding of my hearers, I beg they will remember, and bear it in mind—That the Bible and Franchise, will outlive the name of Scott!!—(Great cheers.)

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